

P.S./I.S. 49 Queens  
Dorothy Bonawit Kole School  
63-60 80th Street  
Middle Village, N.Y. 11379  
(718) 326-2111

SLT Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2019  
5:00pm-6:40pm

Attendees:

Staff:

Tom Carty, Principal  
Jessica Snell, Assistant Principal/Chairperson  
Maura Martinez, UFT Representative  
Jean Bogdan  
Theresa Diaz  
Stephanie Mastropietro

Parents:

Kimberly Walters, PTA President  
Daniel Grodzki  
Katherine Yuskevich  
Julissa Mchugh  
Rob Campana  
Marisa Rahaman  
Nicole Papdimitriou

Mr. Carty called the meeting to order at 5pm.

**Officer appointments and meeting dates**

1. Mr. Carty opened the floor to nominations for SLT chairperson. Jessica Snell nominated herself and the team came to a consensus to approve the nomination. As newly appointed chairperson, Ms. Snell opened the floor to nominations for secretary. Kimberly Walters nominated herself and the team came to a consensus to approve the nomination.
2. The team agreed to make the meetings every third Monday of the month with exceptions for holidays. All meetings will be held at 5pm. The remaining dates for the year are as follows:

October 21, 2019  
November 18, 2019  
December 15, 2019

January 27, 2020  
February 24, 2020  
March 16, 2020  
April 20, 2020  
May 18, 2020  
June 15, 2020

### **Principal Report**

1. Mr. Carty began by telling the team of the new staff member for the school year. A new parent coordinator; Ms. Agrinoni, Ms. Heckel; covering Ms. Carpanini's maternity leave, Ms. Tangredi; 6th grade ELA, Ms. Conway; 7th grade ICT, Ms. Cardoso; 8th grade ICT, Ms. Vile; MS Spanish, Ms. Bellusci; music/dance, Ms. Dukeman; 6th grade ELA/SS, Ms. Milom; payroll secretary. Ms. Sandoval; para.
2. Class Placement:
  - a. Heterogeneous grouping will take place until 6th grade when the accelerated class will form. The decision was made to remove 5th grade from the accelerated program because there wasn't enough test data to properly form the class. A combination of State Test scores, student average and behavior determines placement in the honors class. There is a waitlist maintained in case a seat opens up. The waitlist is fluid and can change according to the latest test data available. Once the students are placed in the accelerated class, it is not a quick decision to pull them from the class, even after a bad marking period. The work is more advanced and not easy to fill with a child who will then be behind.
  - b. No child's grades or academic standing will ever be discussed with another parent.
  - c. Mr. Carty will not entertain the idea of changing a child's class due to parent requests and the district will not get involved in class placement.
3. ICT Classes:
  - a. Each ICT class can hold 12 students who have an IEP. A second teacher is placed in this class to assist those 12 children. The classes/curriculum is the same. There is a lot of miscommunication about the ICT classes.
4. There is a new math and science program; Envisions and Amplify, respectively.

Programs change because one company loses the contract with the DOE and another company picks up the contract. The teachers are being trained. Workshops will be given to parents to explain the new programs.

5. Maternity leaves: Ms. Hutanu is covering Ms. Kokkosis  
Ms. Heckel is covering Ms. Carpanini  
Both had their baby on the first day of school, one hour apart.  
With maternity leaves, Mr. Carty does his best to find a substitute teacher to cover the Class, who is a qualified teacher.

6. State Test Scores:

All test scores can be found at [data.nysed.gov](http://data.nysed.gov)

ELA- 63% proficient, down 1% from last year.

The district is at 47%, NYC is at 47% and NYS is at 45%

Students with Disabilities (SWD) is down from 23% to 17%

ENL students went up from 9% to 14%

Math- 68% proficient, up 5% from last year

SWD went up from 23% to 39%

ENL students went up from 15% to 24%

The district is at 46%, NYC is at 45% and NYS is at 47%

We continue to outpace the district, city and state.

7. CEP Goals:

The CEP is not finalized. The format for the CEP changed this year. Three goals are Assigned to each school. Our assigned CEP goals are ELA, Math and Chronic Absenteeism.

Math: All students from 68% to 71%, SWD 39% to 42%, ENL 24% to 27%

ELA: All students 63% to 66%, SWD 17% to 20%, ENL 14% to 17%

Chronic Absenteeism: Targeting ENL students, 25% to 20%

The goal for absenteeism exists, with the focus on ENL students because of the high Absenteeism due to traveling back to their home countries for various reasons. A Workshop is being planned targeting absenteeism.

The overall attendance in the school is 96%.

Instructional Focus- School Staff will foster an environment in which students are equipped with the tools to provide effective feedback to their peers and to make effective use of the feedback they receive from peers and teachers to improved instructional outcomes. The superintendent has seen the increase in student autonomy and wants to make sure the students understand the feedback and can use the feedback to better their work.

8. Advanced Literacies Handout was presented to the team.

'Advanced Literacies' refers to the skills and competencies that enable communication in increasingly diverse ways and promote the understanding and use of text for a variety of purposes.

The Hallmarks of Advanced Literacies:

1. Work with engaging texts that feature big ideas and rich content
2. Talk/discuss to build both conversational and academic language and knowledge.
3. Write to build language and knowledge

4. Study a small set of high utility vocabulary words and academic language structures to build breadth and depth of knowledge.

Which means exposing students to more authentic text, building vocabulary, and using content to connect them to the real world. Mr. Carty told the team that the teachers are already implementing these hallmarks and will continue to tweak and improve upon them.

9. Enrollment:

- a. An outline of the budget was presented to the team. The budget presented shows how the budget is used, teachers funding, sub funding, supplies funding, reserved funding.

The school has 1201 students, currently

If the projected number of 1220 is not reached by October 31, money from the reserve fund will have to be paid back to the DOE. If we meet our projected number it will be released for use. If we surpass that number, the DOE will give the school more money.

- b. There are currently open seats: Kindergarten-16 seats

1st grade- 12 seats

2nd grade - 2 seats

3rd grade - 1 seat

4th, 5th, and 6th grade - 4 seats each

8th grade - 1 seat

111 - 1 seat

411 - 2 seats

511 - 5 seats

711 and 811 - 1 seat each

- c. In regards to class 605. The DOE sent parents acceptance letters to middle school, not taking into account lack of space or seats, placed them into PS 49. When told there was no space for them, parents went to local congressmen, who in turn, contacted the DOE and enrollment. After back and forth communication with enrollment, enrollment decided that another 6th grade class will be opened. As a result, new teachers needed to be hired; a math/science teacher and an ELA/SS teacher. It became a budget issue at that point and is a large portion of the remaining budget. The budget had to be reevaluated. The two teachers were hired from the ATR pool. They will be on central's budget and payroll until October/November and then will be on the schools budget.
- d. On average, \$110,000 is put away for subs. Its 8 day average per teacher, which is 576 days at \$191 a day that has to be held for sub teachers. We have \$113,000 for subs at the moment.
- e. There is \$160,000 "leftover" money at the moment, but the 2 new teachers salary will come from this.

- f. Money is set aside for per session, which is overtime for teachers. This is money used for after school clubs. We currently have 289 hours available to pay teachers "per session". To put into perspective, to run the play takes about 250 per session hours. Mr. Carty does not want to cut programs such as band, newspaper, sports, etc, but the budget dictates what can run and the tough decisions will have to be made.
- g. Budget terms fyi: Title I- low income school (which we are not), Title III - money designated for ENL students, College Access - 7th grade college awareness program, ESY - Extended school year.
- h. Speech, OT, PT staff are not paid from the school budget.
- i. There is a need for 2 guidance counselors, not just for mandated but at-risk students. Guidance counselors do not come from average salary, they come from their actual salary, which is why we only have one.
- j. Every decision with programming comes with a price, monetarily, as well as what to cut to include a program.
- k. On December 31, a snapshot will be taken for our Special Education numbers and additional money will come in Mid-January based on those. By March, all money must have allocation.
- l. Next meeting Mr. Carty will look to see what the dollar amount is for each enrolled student, include SWD and ENL.

10. Protocol - A proper protocol sheet was sent home. Mr. Carty suggests to always start with the teacher.

11. A cell phone policy sheet was sent home explaining the zero tolerance policy.

12. A vaping letter has gone home. If a child is caught vaping, they cannot go on field trips. Parents need to be vigilant at home.

13. The discipline code has been sent home. No child's behavior will ever be discussed with another parent.

14. Vaccinations - Religious exemptions are no longer an option. All students must be vaccinated by the deadline or they will not be allowed into school.

15. High School application process - Ms. Viglietta can help with the process but it's for the parents to complete online.

16. Recess - Kindergarten doesn't get as much at lunch. The kindergarten can use the playground. They have a schedule. The cafeteria is mandated to recycle food/garbage, milk, etc. The kindergarten needs time to learn these systems and routines which is why kindergarten doesn't go out too much in the beginning. Teachers do use a program called Move to Improve inside the classroom.

17. Safety -

- a. The school is down to one safety agent. No notice was given that we were losing one agent. Many emails have been exchanged with school safety. Holden's office and 311 has given no results. Call 311 to complain about the lack of a security guard.
- b. Letters were sent to Holdens office about traffic, parking and lack of speed cameras in front of the school.
- c. Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCS's) told Mr. Carty that they would ticketing agents for illegal parking around the school. No one has come yet. There are 2 NCO's assigned to a sector.
- d. At dismissal Mr. Carty walks to the park as an extra safety measure, especially surrounding the recent robberies and attacks on children.

18. Misc. Discussion

- a. There is no UPK planned for September.
- b. With how light kindergarten enrollment is this year, it's possible to have four classes next year. It is too early to decide that
- c. Out of zone children can go to enrollment to plead their case as to why to be accepted into a different school, it is up to the discretion of enrollment to allow these exceptions.
- d. Nicole suggested that 4th and 5th graders have a letter they can carry on the first day of school to be able to dismiss without a parent. Mr. Carty said it can be sent home with their report cards and/or be on the website.
- e. Daniel asked the progress of the bathroom renovations. The first floor boys bathroom and the third floor girls bathroom are complete. There is still some work left on the first floor girls bathroom. There are no plans to renovate the cafeteria bathrooms.
- f. Rob asked how supply drop off went. Kim stated that 200 families took advantage of early drop off. Next year a letter will go home in the kindergarten packets to bring school supplies to kindergarten orientation.

**PTA Updates**

Kim presented results of surveys received. To date, 63 surveys have been received. The surveys will stay active until the next SLT meeting where results can be further discussed.

With no further questions/comments Ms. Snell adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

